

MERCURY

Is there mercury lurking in your home?

Because of its unique physical properties, mercury is used in thermometers, thermostats, vehicle light switches, fluorescent lights and some items such as antique toy drawing screens and pre-1997 light-up sneakers.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that accumulates up the food chain. Exposure to mercury can affect the brain, spinal cord, kidneys, and liver, with children being the most susceptible. The U.S. Food and Drug administration issued a nation-wide consumer advisory that children, nursing mothers, and women who may become pregnant should not eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel or ocean whitefish because of the mercury content. Also, due to the San Francisco Bay mercury contamination, it is recommended that adults eat no more than two Bay fish per month.

How Can You Help?

- **Replace Mercury Fever Thermometers** - The standards for accuracy are the same for mercury and non-mercury thermometers.
- **Recycle Your Household Items** - Mercury recovered from old fluorescent lights, thermometers and thermostats means less new mercury needs to be mined. Call (408) 299-7300 or www.hhw.org to find out more about a local collection event or center near you.

By protecting the watershed, creeks and Bay, you are protecting the environment for you, your children and future generations. For more information about how to protect your local watershed, call 1(866) WATERSHED or visit www.watershedwatch.net for your free Watershed Watch Kit.

Disaster Exercise - Volunteers Needed

The Town of Los Altos Hills emergency staff will be conducting an exercise in collaboration with the Emergency Communications Committee and Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services on Wednesday, September 15, 2004.

The objective of the exercise is to validate the Town's procedures on the management of an emergency event. A newly developed plan for the registration of volunteers is one of the procedures that will be used during the September exercise. The Silicon Valley Volunteer Center created these procedures to assist jurisdictions in dealing with "Spontaneous Volunteers" that respond to a disastrous event. The Town is asking for 20 volunteers to play the part of "spontaneous volunteers" and arrive at the temporary Town Hall at Bullis School at 4 PM to be interviewed and registered as volunteers.

As volunteers complete the registration process, we will ask them to critique the process. If you would like to participate, please contact Steven Garcia, Public Safety Officer at (650) 941-7222 x242.

WESTWIND COMMUNITY BARN

ROSE GARDEN

We are very proud of our beautiful rose garden at Westwind Barn. From its humble beginnings, the garden has grown to include 45 different types of rose bushes. Sherry Schaefer has tended these roses with love for many years and because of her commitment, the garden continues to look lovely and well tended all year around. With regrets, Sherry has decided that it is time to retire. Westwind Barn is in search of a volunteer, or several volunteers, who will help keep these roses beautiful. If you are interested in gardening, and love roses, please visit us at Westwind Barn. Help keep these roses going strong so everyone who comes to Westwind Barn is able to enjoy their beauty. For information call Westwind Barn at 650 941-6113.



NEW DOORS FOR WESTWIND BARN

Supporters of Westwind Community Barn (SWCB) is celebrating its first full year of existence by replacing the exterior barn doors at Westwind Barn on Altamont Road. "Supporters," a 501(c)(3) organization, independent of the Town and the "Friends of Westwind", will donate \$20,000 toward replacement of the doors.



"Supporters" aim to raise sufficient funds to develop arts and environment programs at the site, and to preserve and restore Westwind Barn as a working equestrian facility.

Linking the traditions of Los Altos Hills to new activities that will enrich our residents' lives is a "win-win" for the entire community. Since inception in May 2003, "Supporters" have raised over \$100,000. To participate, learn more, donate to the campaign, please contact **Elaine Nelson** at 941-9503 or at elainenelson21@aol.com. Donations of contracting services, additional marketing and graphic design expertise, and event planners are all needed.

Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2004 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2004.

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About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

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